Everyone, close your eyes

Imagine you are a pine seed up in a tall tree, just waiting to fall.

All of sudden, a fire comes through the forest leaving a black and open forest floor.

The sunlight is shining through the trees and reaching the forest floor.

After just a couple of days, the wiregrass starts to come up out of the ground making little green patches in the black ash. (Parents pretend to be the wiregrass creeping up out of the ground)

The wind blows and suddenly you are free falling to the ground. (Spinning, with arms out, to the ground)

There is so much sunlight and nutrients on the ground from the fire that you soon start to sprout. (One finger through the ground)

Soon, more little pine needles start to come straight out of the ground. (More fingers through the ground)

You have now reached the grass stage and you are focusing all your efforts on growing your tap root. You need to find water, so you stay small above the ground, but your growing your tap root further and further and further into the ground. (making slurping noises)

After a few years, you have finally reached water and it is time to start growing taller. You sprout up into the sapling stage. You can grow 3 to 4 feet in a year. (Stand up a little)

After about 20 or 30 years, you have become a mature adult tree and you start producing pinecones. (Stand up tall and ball up your fist like pinecones and start dropping them all over)

 Fox squirrels start to climb and nest in your branches, eating the seeds inside of your pinecones. (Spaz dance)

Over the years you have dropped many branches. (drop a branch)

You have a fungus eating at your heartwood and making it soft. You have reached the age of about 250 and you start to get a flat look at your top. (lean to one side to look flat)

 This is where you will remain, becoming a home for the red cockaded woodpecker and living to be 500 years old. (Have a woodpecker pecking at your trunk)

You have lived out your tree life and have fallen to the ground. (Fall)

You become a home and food for insects, snakes, and salamanders. Eventually you break down and become part of the soil.